(d) which of these remain to be implemented/accepted by the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) A Statement is attached *(See* below).

(b) One meeting was held in 1988.

(c) and (d) The important suggestions made in the meeting include provision of more passenger amenities, stoppage/extension/speeding up of trains, reservation facilities, construction of new railway lines, etc. Each suggestion has been examined on its merits and implemented wherever feasible subject to availability of funds and other constraints.

Statement

Composition of North Zone Railway Users' Consultative Committee

1.	Members of Parliament representing Lok Sabha	2
2.	Members of Parliament representing Rajya Sabha	1
3.	M.L.As., M.L.Cs. and M.M.C., representing State Legislatures and Metropolitan Council, Delhi	6
4	Nominees from State Governments	7
5.	Chambers of Commerce and Industries	5
6.	Semi-Government Undertakings	2
7.	Agricultural Interests	2
8.	Passenger Associations	5
9.	Elected Members from D.R.U.C.Cs.	8
10.	Special Interests	34

Independence of Namibia

110. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a setback to the process of transition to independence of Namibia; and

(b) what role has been played by India to ensure that the independence plan works according to schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) While there was a temporary setback when South African forces clashed with SWAPO personnel in early April this year the process is now back on track though somewhat behind schedule.

(b) India has been working actively along with other Non-aligned countries in the United Nations to monitor developments in Namibia and to ensure the proper implementation of the UN independence plan. India has deputed the UN military Force Commander, 20 military observers and 20 police

monitors to the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG). An Indian Observer Mission has recently been established in Namibia to keep in direct touch with developments.

Grant of a Passport

111. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the normal time taken for grant of a passport on an application being made in this regard;

(b) what is the total number of applications pending with the Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh and Jalandhar respectively for the issue of passports for a period longer than this; and

(c) what steps have been taken to expedite clearance of such applications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Latest data is being collected.

(b) The total number of application for passports pending as on 7-7-89 in the Chandigarh Passport Office was 25,934 and in Jalandhar 46,106.

(c) Recently an arrear clearance drive has been undertaken to clear all internal backlogs. Some staff from the Regional Passport Office, Delhi were sent to the Passport Office, Jalandhar to help clear arrears. The State Govt, has been requested to impress upon its police authorities to expedite despatch of reports on passport applicants. Passport Offices send periodic reminders to police authorities.

रेलवे स्टेशनों पर चाय के लिए प्लास्टिक के कपों की सप्लाई

112. श्री सोहन लाल धूसिया : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश के रेलवे प्लेटफार्मों पर चाय पीने के लिए इस समय कौन-कौन सी कम्पनियां प्लास्टिक के कप सप्लाई कर रही हैं ;

(ख) ये कम्पनियां कहां-कहां स्थित हैं और ये ऐसे कपों को कब से सप्लाई कर रही हैं ;

(ग) 1987-88 और 1988-89 के वर्षों के दौरान इन कम्पनियों द्वारा रेलवे को कुल कितने मूल्य के कप सप्लाई किए गए ; और

(घ) क्या सरकार "जवाहर रोजगार योजना" के अन्तर्गत कुंभकारों के लिए और अधिक रोजगार के अवसर सृजित करने के लिए रेलवे स्टेशनों पर चाय पीने के लिए प्लास्टिक के कपों की सप्लाई बन्द करके फिर से मिट्टी के कुल्हड़ों का प्रयोग शुरू करने का विचार रखती है?

रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधव राव सिंधिया) : (क) मैसर्स डिस-पैक प्लास्टिक इण्डस्ट्रीज, पांडिचेरी 1987 के मूल्य करार पर प्लास्टिक कपों की बकाया सप्लाई पूरा कर रहे हैं। इपीएस थर्मोकोल प्लासेज के लिए मार्च 1989/मई, 1989 में निम्नलिखित दो फर्मों के साथ नये मूल्य करार को अन्तिम रूप दिया गया है :

1. ट्रापिकल कप्स एण्ड कंटेनर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, बम्बई

2. सोपो प्लास्टिक्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, बम्बई

मैसर्स डागा प्लास्टिक्स इण्डस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड, बम्बई को एक लाख कपों के लिए परीक्षण आदेश भी दिया गया है।